

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/707,796
Response filed May 4, 2005
Reply to OA dated February 9, 2005

REMARKS:

Claims 1-7 are currently being considered, of which claims 1-5 have been amended and claims 6 and 7 have been newly added. Applicants believe that no new matter has been introduced.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over USP 4,915,637 (**Ogawa**) in view of USP 5,129,841 (**Allina**).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Ogawa and **Allina**, alone or in combination, fail to describe, teach, or suggest the following features set forth in claims 1 and 3, as amended: “the bridging portion formed unitarily with the female and male electrical contact portions, wherein the bridging portion is inclined”, in combination with the other claimed features.

The amendment of claims 1 and 3 is supported by the original disclosure. See paragraphs [0046] and [0050], for example.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection should be withdrawn.

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Ogawa and Allina, alone or in combination, fail to describe, teach, or suggest the following features set forth in claim 2, as amended: “the positioning member having a through hole to pass the male electrical contact portion of the junction terminal, the male electrical contact portion having a cross section that fits in the through hole to position the junction terminal in the connector housing, the positioning member having a locking piece engaged with an inner surface of the connector housing”, in combination with the other claimed features.

Ogawa and Allina, alone or in combination, fail to describe, teach, or suggest the following features set forth in claim 5, as amended: “wherein the positioning member has a through hole to pass the male electrical contact portion of the junction terminal, and a cross section of the male electrical contact portion fits in the through hole to position the junction terminal in the connector housing”, in combination with the other claimed features.

Claims 6 and 7 have been newly added. Although the Office Action mailed February 9, 2005 did not address these claims 6 and 7, not hitherto available to the Examiner, Applicants desire to make a record as to why **Ogawa and Allina**, alone or in combination, do not describe, teach, or suggest the combination of features set forth in claims 6 and 7.

Ogawa and Allina, alone or in combination, do not describe, teach, or suggest the following features of claims 6 and 7: “wherein the connector housing is secured to the case with bolts”, in

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combination with the other claimed features.

Claims 6 and 7 are supported by the original disclosure. See paragraph [0045], and Figs. 1 and 2, for example.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6 and 7 are allowable over **Ogawa and Allina**.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, all claims currently being considered are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

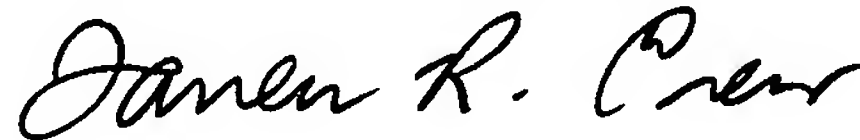
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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